(vii) As in the case of SC/STs, the Government has implemented a scheme called the Pre-Examination Coaching for weaker sections including minorities and OBCs.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains

2450. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether off take of foodgrains out of total foodgrains allotted under the Public Distribution System for the tribals and drought prone areas has been less than 50% during the last financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make some changes in the system of fixing quotas of foodgrains for States under the Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of about 103.68 lakh tonnes of wheat & rice allocated for Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in about 1775 identified blocks consisting of hilly, drought prone remote, and tribal areas, the quantity lifted by the States/UTs was about 43 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. Hence the off take under RPDS during 1995-96 against the allocation was about 41.5%.

(c) to (e). As per the existing practice the allocation of wheat & rice for the Public Distribution System (PDS) is made for States/UTs on month to month basis according to the local availability, production, off-take trend, relative needs, etc. The allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs is supplemental in nature and is not meant for the entire need of any State/UT. In so far the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is concerned the allocation is normally made @ 20kg. per family per month. Final decision to make changes in the system has not been taken so far.

Licences to New Sugar Factories

2451. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of applications received from the Government of Karnataka for issue of licences for new sugar Factories and also for issue of licences for expansion during the last two years till date;

(b) the number of applications approved under both the categories, separately;

(c) the number of applications pending, alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). 56 applications were received through the Ministry of Industry, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and promotion for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories & 9 applications for expansion in the existing units during the last two years, i.e., 1994 and 1995 (January to December). Out of 56 proposals for new sugar factories, 15 have been approved and all the 9 proposals of expansion have been approved.

(c) and (d). As on 30.6.1996, 13 applications received through the Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories were pending consideration of the screening committee of the Ministry of Food.

It is not possible, at present, to specify any time frame in this regard.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

2452. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Fair Price Shopkeepers caught red handed while blackmarketing good quality wheat, rice and sugar during each of the last three years and current year State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the value of goods seized therefrom during the above period State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons apprehended for blackmarketing; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such blackmarketing?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) is a vast operation involving distribution of millions of tons of foodgrains, sugar, edible oil, kerosene